

His military background which dates back to 1961 was given a further boost by a direct appointment in March 1982 to the Guam Army National Guard. He received a commission to the rank of major and resumed working on press and public affairs until 1989 when he was picked to be assistant adjutant general for the headquarters of the territorial area command of the Guam National Guard. He later attained the highest possible position in the Guam Guard when he was appointed by former Governor Joseph Ada to office of the adjutant general of the Guam National Guard.

For over 30 years, General Duenas has distinguished himself as one of Guam's premier public servants. The body of work that he has done as a journalist, legislator, and military commander has contributed greatly to the positive direction that the island is currently taking. Therefore, I commend Brig. Gen. Edward Ramirez Duenas for having been the consummate public servant and congratulate him on his well earned retirement.

I also suspect that General Duenas will continue to serve the people of Guam through active participation in civic and political matters. Si Yu'os Ma'ase' Ed.

TRIBUTE TO THE GLADWIN LIONS CLUB

HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure I rise today to recognize an outstanding organization in the State of Michigan. The Gladwin Lions Club in Gladwin, MI, and its many members have demonstrated their commitment and dedication to helping others for the past 25 years. By sponsoring philanthropic events throughout the year, they have illustrated their desire to improve Gladwin, MI, and positively impact their community and its residents.

It is the spirit of giving that makes the Gladwin Lions Club such a special organization. The Lions Club calls on its members to pool their resources in order to facilitate programs that benefit local citizens. It is this selfless donation of time and energy that makes Gladwin a kind and caring city and sets an outstanding example for other communities to follow.

The Gladwin Lions Club and its members have worked tirelessly to improve their city and the surrounding areas and enrich the lives of residents. They established collection centers at local optical stores to allow those purchasing new glasses to donate their old frames to those less fortunate. All have benefited from their service, from the families who need assistance, to residents who enjoy the improved quality of life in the area.

The United States was founded on the good nature of its citizens and excelled under their willingness to assist neighbors and friends. It is this sense of community that motivates the Gladwin Lions Club to accomplish all they can and to promote this caring nature in others. Mr. Speaker, I know you will join my colleagues and I in honoring the Gladwin Lions Club, the rewarding philanthropic events they sponsor and the sense of community their actions foster. I wish them continued success and look forward to another 25 years of giving.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE MARCELINO SERNA

HON. RONALD D. COLEMAN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to posthumously honor Mr. Marcelino Serna of El Paso, TX. My bill would make the late Mr. Serna eligible for the award from the Army of the Congressional Medal of Honor by stipulation that the regulation which says that a nomination for that award must be filed within 2 years of the acts above and beyond the call of duty should be waived in this case. In my judgment, Mr. Serna deserves that medal just as surely as anyone who has ever been so honored.

Marcelino Serna served in the U.S. Army from 1917 to 1919. He was born in Chihuahua City, in the Mexican State of Chihuahua in 1896. He died February 29, 1992 at the age of 95. He had held his U.S. citizenship since 1924. Seventy-one years ago, Mr. Serna was awarded the Army's second highest award for valor in combat, the Distinguished Service Cross. He was decorated with the highest military medals of Italy and France. The descriptions of his exploits on the battlefields of Belgium and France read like casebooks of heroism. In recovering from wounds suffered toward the end of the war, he was personally decorated by General John "Black Jack" Pershing.

Some have speculated that Mr. Serna was not awarded the Medal of Honor because he was a buck private for most of the war, because he was not a citizen of this country at the time or because he could not speak English well. I hope that none of these reasons were ever given by anyone in a position of authority in these matters. They are insulting and they have no basis in law.

This bill, once enacted, would begin to right a wrong, and to correct an oversight. I urge the committee of jurisdiction to take up the legislation as rapidly as possible so that the Army may look at the merits of this case.

H.R. —

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the time limitations specified in section 3744(b) of title 10, United States Code, shall not apply with respect to the posthumous award of the Medal of Honor under section 3741 of such title to the late Marcelino Serna of El Paso, Texas, for acts of heroism performed while serving as a private in the United States Army during World War I.

TRAGIC LOSS OF FOUR SEATTLE FIREFIGHTERS

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to enter into the RECORD a few words in memory of the four firefighters who tragically lost their lives while serving the people of Seattle, WA on January 5, 1995.

Although I did not know firefighter James T. Brown, Lt. Walter D. Kilgore, Lt. Gregory

Shoemaker, or firefighter Randall R. Terlicker personally, I appreciate their work in service with the Seattle Fire Department. The dangers they daily encountered to protect the residents of the Seventh Congressional District did not deter them, and I share the community's expressions of admiration, gratitude, and sorrow at this time.

All four firefighters exemplified the courageous tradition of their profession. Their implacable bravery and devotion to their work must not go unnoticed in the U.S. House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I hope you join me in extending my condolences to their families, friends, and colleagues in the Seattle Fire Department.

SCHOOL CHOICE

HON. MARTIN R. HOKE

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 17, 1995

Mr. HOKE. Mr. Speaker, we all know that a quality education is the greatest investment we can make in our children as well as in our Nation's future. It is often remarked that a Nation's most valuable asset is its youth, and as the father of three young children, I know full well the truth of that observation.

School choice is an innovative and overdue idea. At present, the public schools have a monopoly in education because their consumers, students, and their parents, are forbidden to choose which school to attend unless they can afford private or parochial schools. Not surprisingly, this Government monopoly has failed to provide a quality service to its captive consumers.

School choice would allow parents to take the money they already spend on taxes for education and invest that money in the school they believe will best educate their child. Essentially, the funds go where the child goes. The child would be able to go to a public or private school, including a religious one. By putting power in the hands of parents, schools would be forced to compete for students. Competition, in turn, will force school administrators to make much needed reforms in order to attract even more customers.

Father Anthony Pilla of the Catholic Diocese of Cleveland has undertaken an insightful study of the issue and has written a report which I believe will be of great interest to you, which I will submit to the RECORD.

IT'S GOOD PUBLIC POLICY

(By Bishop Anthony M. Pilla, Catholic Diocese of Cleveland)

In recent years at the local and national level discussion and debate about educational vouchers have become more and more prevalent in many and varied circles of society. As discussions occur and subsequently are covered by the media, misconceptions about nonpublic schools are frequently presented as factual (especially by those opposed to vouchers). Clearly the promulgation of misinformation is a disservice as committed citizens, parents, educators, and civic, church and business leaders seek to consider issues and reach valid, just and informed decisions to benefit all children of the United States.